

Integrating Technology Tools to Meet Gifted Students' Needs

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<http://rrisdtechtools.wikispaces.com/>

Bold Underline: Students can use
All tools are free or have free version

Live Feedback (Participation)

- Poll Everywhere (<http://www.polleverywhere.com>)
 - Create your own poll for audience members to respond via text or web, watch live results, different chart choices for output
 - Free account – 30 responses
 - Free K-12 account – 40 responses
 - No downloads – all online
 - Registration required
- **Today's Meet** (<http://todaysmeet.com/>)
 - Create your own chat room for a live or ongoing discussion via the web
 - Copy the text from the discussion into a document to save for future reference
 - No downloads
 - No registration required

Collaborative Tools

- Google Docs (<http://www.google.com/>)
 - Create documents, presentations, spreadsheets, and forms that multiple users may edit simultaneously
 - Import docs (etc.) to make accessible to multiple users
 - Offered within Google Apps for Education – if your district has chosen
 - Accounts for each student & teacher
 - Security the district determines, allows students to collaborate within district domain but not outside
 - Requires Google account
 - No downloads – all online
- **Primary Pad** (<http://primarypad.com/>)
 - Create documents collaboratively in real time
 - Invite others to participate, each participant gets a color
 - Timeslider allows you to review the creation of the document
 - Import
 - Export to HTML, Plain Text, Microsoft Word, PDF, OpenDocument
 - No registration
- Wikispaces (<http://www.wikispaces.com>)
 - Web page (set of pages) that may be created, edited, and revised by multiple users
 - Owner of the wiki determines access for others
 - May contain text, documents, video, images, etc.
 - No downloads – all online
 - Guests can edit without joining if you set the security measures as open
 - Registration required to create a wiki

Mindmaps

- **Bubbl.us** (<https://bubbl.us/>)
 - Mind maps
 - Exports as an image which can be saved without registering for an account
 - Invite others to collaborate, must register
 - Free version limited to 3 save sheets (must register to save)

- Mindmeister.com (<http://www.mindmeister.com/>)
 - Mind maps
 - 3 free
 - Requires registration with email account
 - Invite others to collaborate
 - Exporting seems limited in free version
- Mind42.com (requires activation email) (<http://mind42.com/>)
 - Collaborative mindmap in real time
 - Has Skype connection so can start a Skype conversation while in Mind42
 - Exports in various formats
 - Requires registration
 - Full access is free
- Mindomo.com (requires activation email) (<http://www.mindomo.com/>)
 - Collaborative mindmap in real time
 - Requires registration
 - Easily add multimedia to mindmaps
 - 3 maps free
 - Exports

Graphic Organizers/Diagrams

- **Exploratree.org.uk** (requires fast activation email) (<http://exploratree.org.uk/>)
 - Many varied graphic organizers that are easily customizable
 - Can modify and create then print without registration
 - Registration required to save or invite collaborators
 - Only one collaborator may edit document at a time
- Creately.com (<http://creately.com>)
 - Collaborative diagramming
 - Free version allows 5 public diagrams with up to 3 collaborators
 - Requires registration
- Gliffy.com (<http://www.gliffy.com/>)
 - Collaborative diagramming with great templates to start
 - Free version allows 5 public diagrams
 - Requires registration
- Cacao.com (<https://cacao.com/>)
 - Real time collaborating to create diagrams
 - Free version allows up to 25 sheets with 15 users per diagram
 - Requires registration

Timelines

- All are multimedia and require registration to create (some require registration to search)
 - Dipity (<http://www.dipity.com/>)
 - Tiki-Toki (<http://www.tiki-toki.com/>)
 - 1 free timeline
 - TimeGlider (<http://timeglider.com/>)
 - 3 timelines free
 - really cool *New York Times* timeline generator (no registration required to search)
 - TimeRime (<http://www.timerime.com/>)
 - Time Toast (<http://www.timetoast.com/>)
 - XTimeline (<http://xtimeline.com/index.aspx>)

Image Tools

- **Wordle** (<http://www.wordle.net/>)
 - Create word clouds (primarily from pasted text)
 - The size of a word in a word cloud is determined by its frequency within the text entered
 - Enter text by cutting and pasting, or enter the URL of a web site
 - Change the font, layout, and color
 - Difficult to save – must take a screen shot (print screen) and past into a document to save or print to pdf
 - WARNING – Gallery can be inappropriate
 - No downloads – all online
 - No registration
- **Tagxedo** (<http://www.tagxedo.com/>)
 - Create word clouds from pasted text, twitter ID, delicious ID, URL, etc.
 - Choose the shape of the word cloud or upload image
 - Change the color, theme, font, orientation, layout
 - History option allows you to go back to previous versions
 - Word options allow choices for punctuation, numbers, common words, & related words
 - Save as image or get an embed code
 - Must install Microsoft Silverlight which is similar to Flash
 - No registration
- **Aviary** (<http://www.aviary.com/>)
 - Online photo editing
 - No registration required

Video Tools

- **Zamzar** (<http://zamzar.com/>)
 - Converts files or videos into usable formats – Convert YouTube videos into wmv files to use in the classroom
 - No downloads for the converter to work, sends you email with link so you can download video and save it
 - No registration required, but must have email for the file to be sent to you
- **Animoto** (<http://animoto.com>)
 - Creates videos from images you upload to music you select.
 - Basic account is free. Allows 30 second videos, not downloadable, but housed on web. Can purchase full-length videos for \$3 each.
 - Educator account is free and provides all access level features.
 - All Access account is \$30/year (which is pretty good). Allows unlimited full-length videos that you can download.
 - No downloads unless you choose to download created videos
 - Registration required
- **Jing** (<http://www.techsmith.com/jing/>)
 - Screencapture/Screencast – take a picture or video of what's happening on your computer screen
 - Share your screencast online (flickr, twitter, facebook, screencast.com)
 - Free: 5 minute video max, no editing
 - Download required
- **Screencast-O-Matic** (<http://www.screencast-o-matic.com/>)
 - Screencast – creat a video of what's happening on your computer screen
 - NO download
 - Free: 15 minute video max, no editing
 - Saves and exports
 - No registration

Website Tools

- Weebly (<http://www.weebly.com/> or <http://education.weebly.com>)
 - Website builder
 - Free version
 - 2 sites max
 - unlimited pages and storage space
 - limit of 5 MB per file upload
 - Registration required

Math and Science Resources

- **Khan Academy** (<http://www.khanacademy.org/>)
 - 10 minute tutorials primarily focused on math and science
 - New practice tools and performance tracking
 - No download
 - No registration required
- **WolframAlpha** (<http://www.wolframalpha.com/>)
 - Computation tool
 - Will provide answer and how to solve variety of equations and problems
 - Provides general computational information about a variety of topics
 - No download
 - No registration required (simply a type of search engine)
- **Math Train TV** (<http://www.mathtrain.tv/>)
 - Math tutorials by students
 - No download
- **Learning 4 Mastery** (<http://learning4mastery.com/index.html>)
 - Secondary science videos
 - No download

Connecting

Skype (<http://www.skype.com>)

- A phone on your computer
- Multiple connections for voice
- Computer to computer video call
- Share your desktop
- Chat capabilities
- Download required
- Registration required
- Google Chat (<http://www.google.com/talk/>)
 - Very similar to Skype
 - Google account required

Personal/Professional Learning

- Twitter (www.twitter.com)
 - Connect with others using only 140 characters at a time.
 - No download
 - # (hashtag) – used to categorize/tag posts to facilitate conversation
 - #gtchat – noon and 6 pm CST every Friday, global discussion on gifted education moderated by @DeborahMersino
 - Carefully choose who to follow
 - @DeborahMersino – moderator of #gtchat
 - @Cybraryman1 – librarian with tons of great edtech ideas and GT knowledge
 - @teachagiftedkid – GT teacher in the Houston area
 - @DazzlId and @FrazzId – GT advocates in Ireland
 - @ljconrad
 - @GiftedHF – posts links to lots of great articles (gifted and homeschool)
 - @LesLinks – GT consultant in Ireland posts lots of links to resources
 - I'm @atxteacher
 - Try an application to help you manage the information
 - Hootsuite.com – download onto your computer, has columns that lets you track different discussions as you choose (my favorite) – blocked in RRISD
 - Tweetchat.com – use this to participate in #gtchat, allows you to watch the conversation and participate more fluidly than Twitter
 - Consider reading a short article or two about Twitter
 - On Twitter: To Follow or Not to Follow (<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/follow-not-follow-twitter-nicholas-provenzano>)
 - Edu-Tweeting: Twitter – An Introduction for Teachers (<http://headthoughts.co.za/2010/11/edutweet/>)
 - Tweeting with Your Twitter Community: How to Participate in a Twitter Chat (<http://bit.ly/r4pGra>)
 - Twitter for teachers: What is Twitter and why should teachers care? (<http://slidesha.re/oXk10D>) nice overview of Twitter, but a bit long
 - Twitter in Plain English by Common Craft (video on YouTube) (<http://bit.ly/qhL37T>) really good explanation of Twitter but from a social perspective
- Google Reader (<http://www.google.com/> choose more and select Reader)
 - Aggregates blogs and updates to websites that you choose
 - Mark those you want to keep or share
 - Similar to a personalized newspaper
 - Blogs to consider reading
 - Byrdseed Gifted (<http://www.byrdseed.com/>) by Ian Byrd
 - Unwrapping the Gifted (http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/unwrapping_the_gifted/) by Tamara Fisher
 - Gifted Exchange (<http://giftedexchange.blogspot.com/>) by Laura Vanderkam
 - Ingeniosus (<http://www.ingeniosus.net/blog>) by Deborah Mersino
- Video Resources
 - Ted Talks (<http://www.ted.com/>)
 - Talks by experts in a variety of areas world-wide
 - Downloadable directly into iTunes on your computer
 - Available through YouTube: TED Talks Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/tedtalksdirector?blend=1&ob=4>)

- RSA: 21st Century Enlightenment
 - Similar to TED, talks by experts in a variety of areas world-wide
 - Available free through iTunes
 - Available through YouTube: RSA Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/theRSAorg>)
 - RSA Animate have cartoonists animating lectures - you watch animation while you hear the lecture
- Sir Ken Robinson
 - Videos of his presentations are available on YouTube from both TED and RSA
 - Bring on the learning revolution (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9LeIXa3U_I)
 - Do schools kill creativity? (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbY>)
 - Changing Education Paradigms (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDZFcdGpL4U>)
 - Promotes educational reform, values creativity and talent development
- Learning the Tools
 - Library 2 Play: 23 Things (<http://library2play.blogspot.com/>)
 - Blog professional development course
 - Developed in Library and Information Services Dept. at Spring Branch ISD
 - Blogging, Photos & Images, RSS & Newsreaders, Tagging, Wikis & Rollyo, Online Applications & Tools, Videos Podcasts & Nings
 - Library 2 Play 2: 11.5 More Things (<http://library2play2.blogspot.com/>)
 - Blog professional development course
 - Developed in Library and Information Services Dept. at Spring Branch ISD
 - Wordle, Wordshift, Glogster, VoiceThread, Animoto, Voki, Bookr, Skype, YouTube, TeacherTube, Twitter, Facebook, Tinychat, TodaysMeet, I-Touch Apps, Hulu, Screen capture, Sharing, Virtual Worlds, Digital Citizenship
 - Teachers as Technology Trailblazers (<http://trailblazers.wikispaces.com/>)
 - Wiki with tons of resources on web 2.0 tools